

Navy to Christen Future U.S. Navy Ship Cleveland

Release from the Department of Defense

The Navy will christen and launch the newest Freedom-variant Littoral Combat Ship, the future USS Cleveland (LCS 31), during a 10:00 a.m. CDT ceremony on Saturday, April 15, in Marinette, Wisconsin. This event marks the last planned side-launch of a ship at the Fincantieri Marinette Marine, Marinette, Wisconsin Shipyard. Follow-on ships are planned to be launched using a shiplift system.

The principal speaker Mr. Andrew Haeuptle, director of Navy staff, will deliver the ceremonial principal address. Remarks will also be provided by Rear Adm. Thomas Anderson, program executive officer, ships; Mr. Austin Davis, senior policy advisor, City of Cleveland, Ohio; Mr. Steve Allen, vice president, small combatants and ship systems, Lockheed Martin Integrated Warfare Systems and Sensors; and Mr. Mark Vandroff, chief executive officer, Fincantieri Marinette Marine. Mrs. Robyn Modly, wife of former Acting Secretary of the Navy and Cleveland native, the Honorable Thomas B. Modly, will break a bottle of sparkling wine across the bow to symbolically christen the ship.

"This christening is a significant milestone for the future USS Cleveland, the ship's sponsor Mrs. Robyn Modly, and the prospective crew," said Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro. "LCS 31 will be another step closer to joining our fleet, sailing the open seas, continuing to defend our nation, and representing the strong connection our Navy has with the city of Cleveland."

Cleveland is the 16th and final Freedom-variant LCS and the

fourth ship to be named in honor of the city of Cleveland, Ohio. Previous USS Cleveland's were the World War I cruiser (C 19), the World War II light cruiser (CL 55), and the Vietnam-era amphibious transport dock (LPD 7), decommissioned in 2011.

The Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) class are fast, optimally-manned, mission-tailored surface combatants that operate in near-shore and open-ocean environments, winning against 21st-century coastal threats. LCSs integrate with joint, combined, manned, and unmanned teams to support forward presence, maritime security, sea control, and deterrence missions around the globe.

The LCS class consists of two variants, Freedom and Independence, designed and built by two separate industry teams. The Freedom variant team is led by Lockheed Martin (for the odd-numbered hulls, e.g. LCS 1). It is a steel monohull design constructed by Lockheed Martin in the Fincantieri Marinette Marine Corporation's shipyard in Marinette, Wisconsin.

Media may direct queries to the Navy Office of Information at (703) 697-5342. More information on the Littoral Combat Ship Program can be found at: <https://www.navy.mil/Resources/Fact-Files/Display-FactFiles/Article/2171607/littoral-combat-ship-class-lcs/>.

CNO Gilday and Connecticut Congressman Visit General

Dynamics Electric Boat



April 13, 2022

From Chief of Naval Operations Public Affairs

GROTON, Conn. – Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Mike Gilday traveled to Groton, Connecticut, April 13, and visited General Dynamics Electric Boat with Rep. Joe Courtney (D-Conn.).

During the visit, they met with Electric Boat leadership, received program briefs, and toured shipyard facilities.

“We’re working side by side with Congress and industry to build the most ready and lethal fleet we can,” said Gilday. “Today’s visit is an important opportunity to see the progress and improvements being made by our industry partners in New England.”

Upon arrival, Gilday and Courtney were met by Mr. Kevin Graney, president of General Dynamics Electric Boat.

Throughout the afternoon, the leaders discussed shipbuilding, talent management and workforce development, capacity, and capabilities.

General Dynamics Electric Boat designs, builds, repairs, and modernizes nuclear submarines for the Navy—to include work on the Navy’s new Columbia-class. These new ballistic missile submarines will replace the Ohio-class variant as the Navy’s contribution to the nuclear triad, which remains the most survivable leg of the U.S. strategic nuclear deterrent force.

“Whenever we talk about ‘the Arsenal of Democracy,’ our defense industrial base needs to be the centerpiece of that discussion,” said Gilday. “The work being done here in Connecticut is vitally important to our Navy, and I’m incredibly appreciative of the team’s collaborative efforts.”

Gilday last visited Groton in February 2022.

SECNAV Unveils Concepts for Planned Navy Museum



Release from Navy History and Heritage Command

14 April 2023

From NHHC Public Affairs

WASHINGTON NAVY YARD - Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro unveiled conceptual renderings from five architecture firms at the National Museum of the U.S. Navy, finalizing the Navy's Artistic Ideas competition, an effort to explore the possibilities for the planned Navy museum.

Following the SECNAV's October announcement of the preferred location for the Navy's planned museum, Naval History and Heritage Command moved forward with its conceptual development phase and initiated the ideas competition in an effort to explore the full realm of artistic ideas that might be incorporated into a new museum.

The competition sought concepts and ideas for the planned

project from a broad range of individuals and architecture firms. Following the initial announcement in December, 80 firms expressed interest in participating; 37 firms then submitted qualifications, and finally, the Navy selected five architecture firms as finalists: Bjarke Ingels Group, DLR Group, Frank Gehry Partners, Perkins & Will and Quinn Evans.

Since January, the firms developed their unique submissions of conceptual ideas to include a museum entrance, an atrium, a ceremonial courtyard, and the incorporation of some of the Navy's larger artifacts, like a Corsair aircraft, a Swift Boat, and the sail of a submarine.

"We are pleased to display five visions for the future of the National Museum of the U.S. Navy," said Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro, "while each concept is different, all of them show how we might celebrate our Navy's accomplishments, honor our veterans and point the way toward the Navy's future."

The Navy envisions a future museum that would offer greater public access that could include a new building and the potential renovation of existing historical buildings. The planned museum campus would consist of approximately 270,000 square feet and include about 100,000 square feet of net gallery space.

"The concepts unveiled today are a crucial step in exploring what is possible for the new National Museum of the U.S. Navy," said NHHC Director Samuel J. Cox, U.S. Navy rear admiral (retired). "We'll tell the story of the Navy's history as it continues to unfold, and the ideas developed by our finalists herald a new way of honoring that history by inviting visitors to participate."

"These concepts mark an important step in the museum building process," according to Charles Swift, Acting Director of the Museum of the United States Navy, who oversaw the

competition.

“These ideas and concepts show what might be possible for a new museum,” said Swift. “We have a number of steps we need to complete before determining a final design, and that first step is having a conversation with America: our Navy, our veterans and our nation, about what we’ve presented today.”

The firms’ concepts are available here:
<https://www.history.navy.mil/content/history/nhhc/news-and-events/multimedia-gallery/news-photos/nmusn-concepts/nmusn-concepts.html>.

The final canvases from the competition will remain on display for public viewing at the Navy’s National Museum on the Washington Navy Yard. Access hours are limited because of museum’s consolidation. Visit <http://www.history.navy.mil/content/history/museums/nmusn.html> for hours and access guidance. NHHC plans additional public showcases this summer.

Anyone wishing to share ideas or to comment on these Navy museum concepts can find us on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/NMUSN>

or email: NHHC_NMUSNMuseumNews@us.navy.mil

NHHC, located at the Washington Navy Yard, is responsible for preserving, analyzing, and disseminating U.S. naval history and heritage. It provides the knowledge foundation for the Navy by maintaining historically relevant resources and products that reflect the Navy’s unique and enduring contributions through our nation’s history and supports the fleet by assisting with and delivering professional research, analysis, and interpretive services. NHHC comprises many activities, including the Navy Department Library, the Navy

Operational Archives, the Navy art and artifact collections, underwater archeology, Navy histories, 10 museums, USS Constitution repair facility, and the historic ship Nautilus.

Business, state consortium kicks off BAE Systems' \$200 million ship repair facility upgrade in Jacksonville



[Release from BAE Systems](#)

Upgraded facility will support the repair of Mayport-based Navy ships and commercial vessels that call upon the Port of Jacksonville starting in 2025

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – April 12, 2023 – BAE Systems officially began construction of a modern Pearlson Shiplift and land-level repair complex at the company's Jacksonville, Florida shipyard with a groundbreaking ceremony yesterday. The company first revealed its plans to build the \$200 million complex in December 2022.

"As the chair of Space Florida's board of directors, I congratulate BAE Systems upon its groundbreaking ceremony," said Lt. Governor Jeanette Nuñez. "This critical investment will facilitate improved capacity to service U.S. military vessels and bring high wage jobs to Florida's First Coast. I look forward to seeing the impact the Jacksonville Ship Repair expansion project will have on our maritime capabilities."

Attending the groundbreaking ceremony were U.S. Representative Aaron Bean (R-Fla.), Pearlson's President and Chief Operating Officer Kelly Pearlson Fraind, and BAE Systems Platforms & Services President Jeremy Tondreault.

"BAE Systems Ship Repair is an economic engine of Florida's seacoast region, and since 1964, has brought great pride to our state by strengthening our role in national defense," said Rep. Bean. "The modern ship lift and land level repair facility will improve production efficiency, overall reliability and expand ship capacity to counter China's growing naval ambitions. In Congress, I will support Jacksonville's maritime industrial base to solidify our legacy as the most formidable naval force in the world for future generations."

The BAE Systems shipyard modernization project involves Pearlson Shiplift Corporation, Foth Engineering, and Kiewit Infrastructure South Co., in major construction roles. Foth along with Pearlson Shiplift are responsible for the overall facility design, construction management and engineering, and key equipment supply. Kiewit will serve as general contractor for the project. When complete in 2025, the new complex will

expand the BAE Systems shipyard's docking capacity by 300 percent. The construction and operation of the repair facility is expected to generate approximately 1,000 new jobs.

The complex will feature a new state-of-the-art shiplift system built by Pearlson Shiplift Corporation. The lift's 492-foot by 110-foot articulated platform can easily accommodate a Flight III U.S. Navy guided missile destroyer or a commercial vessel displacing about 25,000 tons.

"Pearlson's team worked with BAE Systems personnel on the ground in Jacksonville to deliver a comprehensive, detailed design that meets the shipyard's needs and delivers unparalleled capability," said Fraind. "The new Pearlson Shiplift System and land level facility for BAE Systems Jacksonville Ship Repair, when commissioned, will be the largest in both North and South America and the most modern shiplift facility in the world."

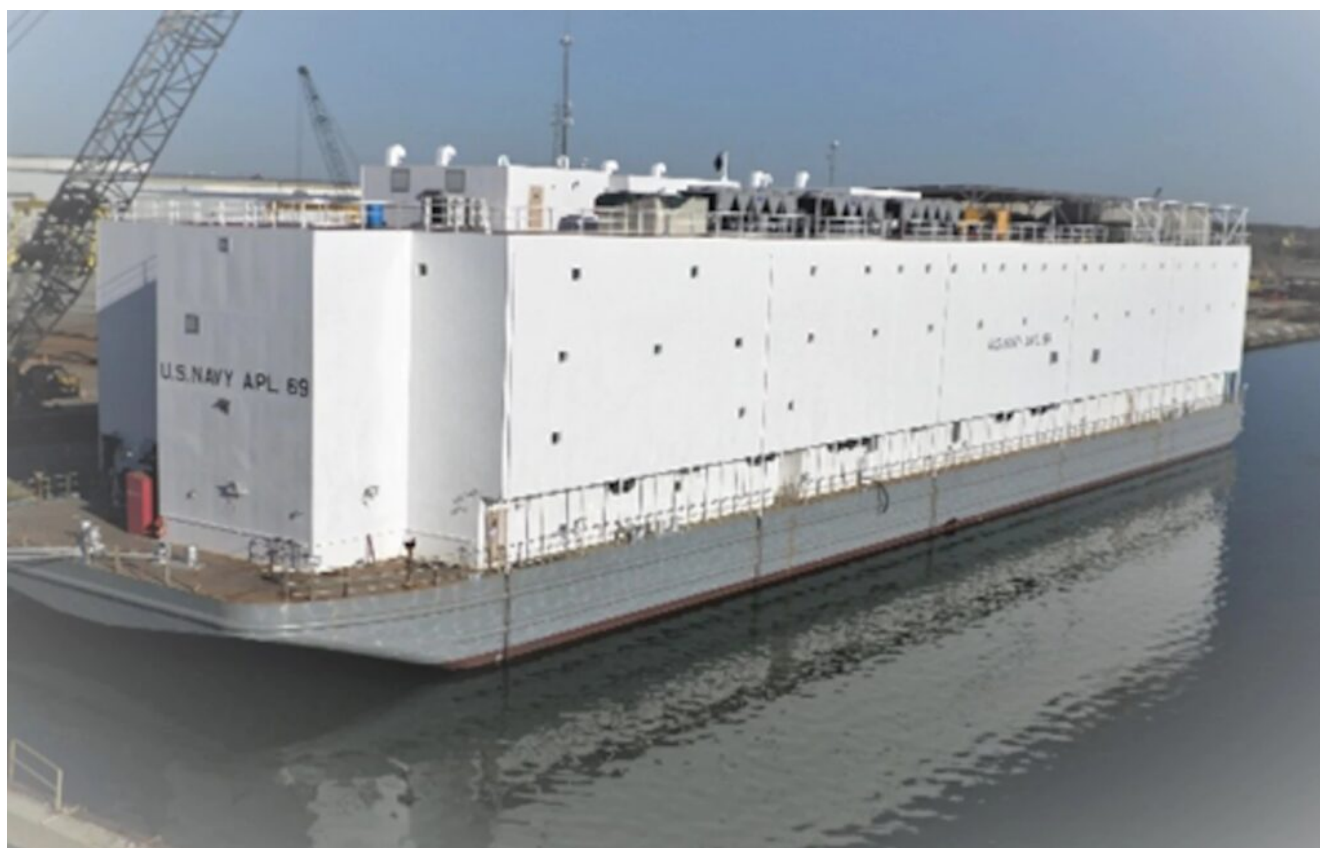
Once out of the water, dry-docked ships will be moved from the shiplift platform to one of several repair berths inside the shipyard by a series of self-propelled modular transporters and a Pearlson designed cradle system. The land-level repair area in the shipyard will provide electrical, sewage, and water services to docked ships, as well as storm water containment. These services will permit repair work to occur onboard several ships simultaneously without encumbering the shiplift platform or other work in the shipyard.

In addition to supporting the Navy's surface fleet at Naval Station Mayport, BAE Systems expects to expand its offerings within the commercial ship repair market. The port of Jacksonville is the 14th largest container port in the United States. Numerous workboats (e.g., tugs, barges, etc.) and commercial vessels operate in or pass through the port.

"The shiplift project is a significant investment by BAE Systems in the Jacksonville port, and we look forward to

building this new complex to expand our shipyard's capacity to meet commercial and government ship repair needs," said Tondreault. "We also appreciate the support and contributions of the state and local leaders, and all of our partners, who helped to make this a reality."

US Navy awards BOLLINGER SHIPYARDS contract to build sixth berthing barge



Caption: Berthing Barge APL 69 was one of five APL 67-class barges built by VT Halter Marine, acquired last year by Bollinger Shipyards, which will build the sixth of the class. (U.S. Navy photo)

[Release from Bollinger Shipyards](#)

LOCKPORT, La., – (April 11, 2023) – Bollinger Shipyards (“Bollinger”) today announced that the U.S. Navy has awarded the Lockport-based shipbuilder the detailed design and construction contract for the sixth Auxiliary Personnel Lighter–Small (APL(S)) 67 Class berthing and messing barge. Construction will take place at Bollinger Mississippi Shipbuilding in Pascagoula, Mississippi and is anticipated to begin in the second quarter of 2023.

“We are honored to be entrusted by the U.S. Navy to build the sixth APL berthing barge,” said Ben Bordelon, President and CEO of Bollinger Shipyards. “This contract is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our team at Bollinger, and our commitment to delivering high-quality, reliable vessels that meet the Navy’s rigorous standards. We look forward to continuing to grow our partnership with the Navy and delivering this critical asset to support our national defense.”

The previous five APLs were built by VT Halter Marine, which Bollinger acquired in late 2022. Halter received the initial contract in 2018. APLs are used by the Navy to house crewmembers when ships are in port for availabilities and Inter-Deployment Training Cycles. The barges are mobile and can be towed to new bases or shipyards to support changing fleet requirements and also offer potential use for humanitarian missions and other temporary assignments.

APLs are 269 feet long, 69 feet wide and have a draft of 7 feet. Each vessel is equipped with offices, classrooms, washrooms, laundry facilities, medical treatment areas, a

barber shop and fitness center. With mess seating for 224 enlisted personnel and 28 officers, each meal is served via five 20-minute shifts to allow food service for 1,130 personnel (three meals per day). The vessels are fitted with mixed gender berthing spaces for 74 officers and 537 enlisted personnel, for a total of 611 people.

Rite-Solutions Receives Next-Generation Attack Submarine Navy Contract



[Release from Rite-Solutions](#)

Middletown, RI (April 10, 2023) – Rite-Solutions has been awarded a new contract by the Naval Undersea Warfare Center Division Newport (NUWCDIVNPT) with a potential value of \$850,000 over the next two years.

The company will support the development, configuration, and delivery of a user-friendly interface software called the SSN(X) Sail Model Tool. The tool will enable sailors to evaluate current and future submarine sensors and antennas. The tool will allow proper assessment of the impacts of various submarine sail configurations with respect to overall submarine capability and vulnerability.

Laura Deady, Rite-Solutions Sr. Vice President says, “Rite-Solutions is grateful for the opportunity to support NUWC Code 34 in developing the SSN(X) Sail Model Tool. Rite’s greatest asset is the expertise of our workforce, which allows proficiency in our technical capabilities.”

The contract will be performed in Newport, RI and areas where the Navy has indicated a significant need.

“We are proud to be part of the next generation of attack submarines for the Navy,” adds Dennis McLaughlin, Rite-Solutions President, and CEO. “It’s an honor to be recognized as an innovative company and to be invited to work on cutting-edge technology that will help keep our Navy #1 in the world for decades to come.”

SAIC Awarded \$102M Contract

to Support U.S. Navy Torpedo Production



JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM (June 2, 2021) Sailors assigned to the Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine USS Columbia (SSN 771) load a Mark 48 advanced capability torpedo for Exercise Agile Dagger 2021 (AD21). AD21 is a training exercise, with one-third of the Pacific Submarine Force getting underway, to assess warfighting readiness and build capacity for the joint force. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Michael B. Zingaro)

[Release from SAIC](#)

Contract expands support of MK 48 production

Reston, Va., April 10, 2023 – Science Applications International Corp. (NYSE: [SAIC](#)) has been awarded a \$102.5 million contract by the U.S. Navy to continue supporting the MK 48 Mod 7 Heavyweight Torpedo program. This is a firm-fixed-

price and cost-plus-fixed fee modification to a previously awarded [\\$1.1 billion torpedo production contract](#).

“SAIC has a long history of supporting the U.S. Navy, notably our work providing the dominant undersea weapons it requires,” said Bob Genter, president of Defense and Civilian Sector at SAIC. “We are honored by the Navy’s confidence in SAIC, and proud to expand our support of the MK 48 program.”

Under the new contract option, SAIC will produce, assemble, test and deliver the U.S. Navy’s MK 48 Mod 7 Torpedo Afterbody Tailcones (AB/TC) and MK29 Mod 0 Warshot Fuel Tanks to the U.S. Navy and foreign partners through implemented Foreign Military Sales (FMS) programs.

Currently, SAIC also provides all necessary facilities, resources and management to meet the contract’s integration, production, test and delivery requirements.

To learn more about SAIC’s work with the Department of Defense, visit www.saic.com/defense.

HII is Awarded Contract Modification for Columbia- Class Ballistic Missile Submarines



[Release from HII](#)

NEWPORT NEWS, Va., April 11, 2023 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) – HII (NYSE: HII) announced today that its Newport News Shipbuilding division has been awarded a \$567.6 million subcontract modification from General Dynamics Electric Boat to provide long-lead-time material and advance construction activities for *Columbia*-class ballistic missile submarines.

HII is currently under contract for construction of submarine modules for Build I, the first two submarines in the class: *District of Columbia* (SSBN 826) and *Wisconsin* (SSBN 827). The advance procurement funds from this subcontract modification, awarded April 4, will allow NNS to purchase major components and commodity material and to begin advance construction on Build II, the next five submarines in the class.

“This contract modification underscores the critical manufacturing work our shipbuilders do for the U.S. Navy, as major contributors to the *Columbia*-class,” said Brandi Smith, NNS vice president for *Columbia*-class construction. “When delivered to the fleet, these submarines and their crews will

protect peace and freedom around the world, in service of the nation. Our shipbuilders understand the responsibility, commitment and discipline required of them each day, and take great pride in supporting this mission.”

A photo accompanying this release is available at: <https://hii.com/news/hii-contract-columbia-class-ballistic-missile-submarine-april-2023/>.

The Navy has designated the *Columbia* class its top acquisition priority. Ultimately, the *Columbia* class will replace the fleet of *Ohio*-class ballistic missile submarines, and take over the role of the nation’s sea-based strategic deterrent, providing the most survivable leg of the nation’s strategic triad.

NNS is a major shipbuilding partner in the *Columbia*-class program, constructing and delivering six module sections per submarine under contract to General Dynamics Electric Boat.

NAVAIR Sees AI as Future of Air Wing



NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. – In a well-attended presentation by Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) on April 3 at Sea-Air-Space 2023, RDML Stephen Tedford, program executive officer for Unmanned Aviation and Strike Weapons (PEO (U&W)) explained the need for trust in autonomous systems while providing an overview of the Navy's unmanned aircraft, weapons, and target systems.

"If we have trust in autonomy, we can then make the move to truly artificial intelligence and in the future of the air wing," Tedford said.

He encouraged a real-world perspective when thinking about autonomous systems, remarking that, "I know many of you here that are in suits now are retired military. Many of you [...] flew jets. At some point all of you were up and trying to find the tanker late at night, trying to get on the back side of the hose to get home. We learned that lesson over Afghanistan."

"How can you make in-flight refueling autonomous possible?"

Tedford queried. “What if a pilot just has to get close enough and then let the system take over for itself. And make it more reliable, make it consistent and make it easier,” he continued.

Open architecture may be the key.

“We always want open architecture systems,” Tedford said. “We need them for flexibility in our systems. Just like applications on your phone that you can add and get rid of. We need to be able to do that with our mission systems in the unmanned environment as well.”

Tedford also focused on the people behind the tech and stressed that autonomous systems and artificial intelligence don’t operate in a bubble. Fundamentally, an unmanned system is still a human system.

“We know that unmanned really isn’t actually unmanned,” said Tedford. “There’s a huge support staff that’s involved in getting an aircraft in the air and conducting the mission. What we’re talking about [...] having direct connectivity between our unmanned platforms and a manned platforms where the unmanned becomes an extension of the manned mission.”

Combating Climate Change

Captured by SD 1078 in the Atlantic Ocean during Hurricane Fiona, Sept. 22, 2022. (Video: NOAA and Saildrone)

Excerpted from the upcoming article in the May 2023 issue of Seapower Magazine

As climate change increasingly affects weather patterns over the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico, tracking hurricanes and monitoring their intensity has become more critical than

ever.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) reports that between 1980 and 2021, hurricanes caused 6,697 deaths and over \$1.1 trillion in damages. Hurricanes' massive waves and roaring winds can also have catastrophic effects on ships at sea, making accurate forecasting a must for naval operations.

While new technology has steadily improved hurricane-tracking forecasts since the 1990s, predicting how rapidly a tropical storm or hurricane may intensify has been more problematic. To understand storm intensity, scientists measure heat and momentum, collecting data on the exchange of energy between the ocean and atmosphere. But in order to do this in the most accurate way, scientists need data from inside the storm itself.

That's where uncrewed systems come in. "With uncrewed systems, we can either do what we're already doing, but do it more productively and efficiently, or we can go get data we just couldn't get before," said NOAA Corps Captain William Mowitt, director of NOAA's Uncrewed Systems Operations Center.

You can read the full article about how the U.S. Navy, NOAA, and private partners are using uncrewed systems and new technologies to forecast hurricanes in the May issue of Seapower Magazine.

Vicky Uhland is a Colorado-based writer and editor who also covers the Navy League's annual Sea-Air-Space conference.